**Students Matter Committee**

**We’re listening!**

Over the past three years, the Chinook’s Edge Board and Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) have worked to gather the perspectives of various groups about their experiences with – and hopes for – Chinook’s Edge. The initiative began with the Guiding Coalition who developed the division’s new Mission and Vision statements. From there, a number of committees have been created to continue the dialogue: Teachers Matter, Support Staff Matter, and Division Office Matter. The Board has engaged every community in the division through public consultations, the Superintendent Team is engaging school-based administrators through the Instructional Leadership project, and COLT has connected with every school staff through the COLT Roadshow. Now we’re ready to launch the division’s Students Matter Committee.

**Purpose**

The Students Matter committee will open a structured opportunity for students throughout our division to share their views on their school experience. Students Matter is an opportunity to collaborate, provide input, learn about the division, hear a cross section of ideas and, ultimately, help change the experience of students in the classroom. Our mission is to engage EVERY student with a goal to help EACH ONE achieve success. We need to know how we’re doing.

**Strategies**

**Phase 1: Students Matter Survey (October 1 – November 1)**

* Teachers Matter committee members asked that every student from all grades have an opportunity to have their voices heard. The first phase in forming the Students Matter committee will be a Zoomerang survey:
  + - We would like to know what you think would make your time at school better. Please answer the question, “If I was the boss of Chinook’s Edge School Division, I would…”
* The question appeals to all audiences, provides input opportunities for the younger grades and will help shape future Students Matter Committee conversations.
* Responses to the survey may help COLT identify older students (Grades 8-12) who would be effective participants on the Students Matter Committee. As well, teachers and other school staff may be invited to identify specific students.
* Awareness:
  + Information posters will be sent to schools, asking students to answer the one-question survey for a chance to be entered into a prize draw. Posters will invite students to visit our website and follow a link to the Zoomerang survey, and the link will be posted to the division homepage and each school homepage. We will also endeavor to email students directly, as much as this is possible. As well, students can give written responses to their teacher who will forward to division office.
  + Newsletter message / written invites from Kurt to student councils and/or student leadership groups asking them to be advocates for this project in their school
  + COLT will be champions of the initiative in their communication circles – through ADCOS, IL, Teachers Matter, and while delivering the QLE posters to each classroom, etc.

**Phase II: Launch Students Matter Committee (mid-November)**

* Comprised of glowing voices and dissenting voices, students who are flourishing and those who are skipping – we want a spectrum of voices.
* Scope: Students in grade 8-12 who will make a three-year commitment to this committee so we can garner long-term input on our work involving QLE, inclusive education, etc. As Grade 12 members move off the committee in subsequent years they will be replaced – in this way the committee will have consistency with a slight variation each year.

**Timeline:**

* September 10 – Present the concept to SAT
* September 12 – Present to the Board
* September 19 – Present to ADCOS (have posters ready for them to take to their schools)
* September 28 – Present to Teachers Matter Committee
* October 1 – Launch survey
* October 1 – November 1: Keep momentum, gather data, remain vigilant for Students Matter members, work strategically with specific schools to gather names, identify and circulate the goals and strategies/time commitment of the Students Matter Committee
* By October 31 – Shortlist a possible Students Matters Committee list, liaise with schools to ensure agreement (ensure a cross-section of geographic area, gender, grade 8-12). Liaise with students to confirm their commitment. Draw for the prize from all survey entries (oh, did I mention the prize? How about an iPad for the grand prize and three $50 iTunes cards (one for each Elementary, Middle and High schools).
* November 14 Board Meeting or Nov 21 ADCOS – Announce names of the Students Matter Committee; issue media release; circulate data gathered through survey (design a document that captures key themes, share what we heard directly back to schools)
* Late November – Host in-person Students Matter meeting at Division Office (with pizza lunch – date and time of day TBD)
* November – March:
  + Keep Students Matter members engaged through online discussion board/blog/chat room. (how best to connect with them in between and how do they connect with each other?)
  + Invite reps from Students Matter to their school’s COLT Roadshow event
  + Assign one question on the 15th of each month which they are tasked with asking five of their peers (including one person they have never spoken with before). Sample questions:
    - What do you think is the best way(s) to engage students at the high school level?
    - A teacher who really wants to help students will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - My classes and my school time could be more meaningful and useful to me if we had more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - My classes and my school time could be more meaningful and useful to me if we had less \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - If I could help my teacher better understand one thing to help them really impact student success it would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Students become disengaged with school because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What does a Quality Learning Environment look like to you?
* End March – final Students Matter meeting of the year – either Skype, VC or in person TBD

**Key leadership involvement:** COLT